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Ben Blackburn's

WASHINGTON
REPORT

An article which I prepared for the Wall Street Journal was published in the Wall Street Journal on August 16, 1973. It pointed out several flaws in the President's proposed East-West Trade package. It reports that the "American people have been told by our policy makers and other proponents of expanded trade with the Soviet Union that the Cold War is over.

"We are told that by assisting the Soviet Economy the Russian regime will become dependent upon the United States for improving the quality of life of its subjects and thus we will enhance the prospects for permanent peace. Fifty years ago a similar thesis was being propounded: 'If we support the Soviet government, we will insure stability and the democratization of Russia.'

"Today we find stable government in the Soviet Union but no democratization. We find a government with imperialistic ambitions backed by a military force which represents a formidable threat to the U.S." . . . and that their "goal -- that of obtaining preeminent world power -- never changes."

A leading Soviet newspaper, PRAVDA, has seen fit to comment upon that article. The CIA tran-

slation of the August 29th article in PRAVDA states:

"Congressman Ben Blackburn, member of the House of Representatives from Georgia, recently added his voice to the choir of those for whom any cooperation with the Soviet Union goes against the grain. The congressman's unbridled article, published on the pages of the WALL STREET JOURNAL, is an open attempt to torpedo the development of Soviet-American trade, while his appeals to strive to obtain 'political concessions' from the Soviet Union and even 'changes in the internal structure' indicate the complete loss of a sense of reality."

The most telling message from PRAVDA is the reassurance that their political objectives remain the same in a time of detente as previously. It seems to me that PRAVDA is trying to tell us something -- that is, their political objectives will not change, even while we willy-nilly bail out their domestic economy so they can continue unabated their military development.

Soviet citizens such as Andrei Sakharov and Alexander Solzhenitsyn, (both of whom speak out at risk of their lives), are also trying to tell us not to be foolishly blind.

When so many voices from both sides of the Iron Curtain are being raised to warn us that generous credits and advances in technology delivered to the Soviet Government will ultimately bring disaster not only to this country but to civilized man, surely we should take another look at granting increased trade with the Soviet Union without stipulating internal domestic